45. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)

46. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO)

IV. Disinvestment completed but pending decisions of Courts/BIFR

47. Jessop & Co. Ltd.

48. Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd., Palakkad

Promotion of economic and commercial cooperation by missions

2626. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps, if any Government have taken in the last three years to reinforce the capacity and ability of Indian missions abroad to undertake effective initiatives for promoting close economic and commercial cooperation with various countries; and

(b) in what manner Government propose to be pro-active in promoting National Economic interests particularly in the EU and in South-East Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Government has over the past three years initiated several new programmes under which concerted efforts are being mounted by Missions to identify thrust areas of economic cooperation in the respective countries to promote mutually beneficial commercial partnerships. They regularly undertake promotional measures, like organizing seminars, trade exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, facilitating visits of commercial delegations, preparation of market survey reports, etc. to promote Indian exports abroad and facilitate inflow of investments to India. Government is also extending credit lines to many developing countries to help promote India's commodity exports, consultancy services and project exports.

(b) Government remain pro-active in promoting national economic interests abroad by continuously interacting on the one hand, with the Indian business and industry through the apex Chambers of Commerce, the Export Promotion Councils and other specialized agencies and, on the other, with the Indian Missions abroad. The latter are being constantly provided with information on economic developments in India. They are

provided Weekly Economic Bulletins by electronic mail. The Ministry's latest publication "India 2003-04: Reliable Business Partner, Attractive FDI Destination" has been published, for the first time, in 8 major foreign languages; Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, besides English. There is also emphasis on pro-active coordination with State Governments. A dedicated website for promoting Trade, Investment, Technology and Services is also under development.

The Government are also closely promoting partnerships with regional blocks in all the continents. With EU and ASEAN countries in particular, India has already established annual summit level interaction. India-EU and India-ASEAN Business Summits are also being held regularly.

Terrorism as core issue between India and Pakistan

2627. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government agrees that terrorism, and not Kashmir, is the core issue between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Deputy Prime Minister had told USA that India is not asking Pakistan to abandon their views on Kashmir but change their view on terrorism during his visit in June, 2003 to USA;

(c) whether the nefarious and totally unacceptable activities of Pakistan's ISI were pointed out to the US also; and

(d) if so, the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government had made it clear to Pakistan that creation of conducive environment for a sustained dialogue necessarily requires an end to cross border terrorism and dismantling of infrastructure of support to terrorism on permanent basis. The Composite Dialogue framework agreed to between the two countries, provides the structure for conducting any dialogue process. There is no agreement between the two countries on Jammu and Kashmir being a so-called "core" issue.

(b) to (d) Government have been continuously and appropriately bringing to the attention of the international community, including United